

THE BEANS 25!

BEANS 25!

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PART 1 OF 3
BY MARK
MILLAR
& ARIEL
OLIVETTI

JLA PARADISE LOST



**WHEN HEAVEN FINDS HIM,
ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE!**

DIRECT SALES 001110



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DEET

WELL COME, THIS IS
HAPPENING AGAIN THE
FUTURE AND DOMINATES
THE LANDSCAPE ALREADY
KNOWING YOU TALK ABOUT
PAYING. NO MANY WALK
DATE. I'M TRYING TO RUN
A RESTAURANT HERE, NOT
A STREET SCENE FOR
STREET.

DEET

DEET

MORE.
JUST CALLING TO REMIND YOU TODAY
IS ALL SAINTS
DAY. A WORTHLESS
NEW MASCOT SHOULD
HAVE TO GO TO WORK ON HOLY DAYS OF
OBSERVATION



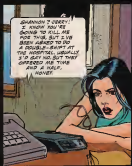
ALSO HUNDRED
NEW TWENTY-
FIVE HUND DOLLARS

YET SAID
HE'D BE LUCKY
IF HE MADE IT
THROUGH THE
NIGHT, NOW

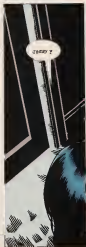


BUTTING THIS
LITTLE TROUBLE
IS GOING TO BREAK
MY HEART
TOMORROW...

DEET



SHANNON I OBEY!
I KNOW YOU'RE
GOING TO KILL ME
FOR THIS, BUT I'VE
BEEN LEARNED TO DO
A DOUBLE-SHAFT AT
THE HOSPITAL, USUALLY
I'D SAY NO, BUT THEY
OFFERED ME TIME
AND A HALF,
HONEY



Someone to watch over me

HAIRY WING

HELWET

1999

CHINESE EMPLOYERS

41799

RESEARCH DESIGN

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REPUBLIC

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RESEARCH

WAP 2000

SPECIAL THANKS TO JUAN RODRIGUEZ AND MARCELLO ROSA

HEAVEN. A
SHORT WHILE
AGO...





LET HIM WHO HAS
DECEASED AN
AUDIENCE WITH THE
FOUR KINGDOMS
OF THE FAR-DEEP
PRESENT HIMSELF
AND DECLARE HIS
INTENTIONS TO
HEAVEN'S
GENERALS.

DOES YOUR
DESIRE TO LEAVE
THE FLOCK MEAN
YOU ARE
FLEETING
WITH NO LEADER-
SHIP, SAULUS?

ADDRESS ME,
LORD HERAPHON.
YOU HAVE ALWAYS
BEEN OBLIVIOUS TO ME.
I ASKED TO BE
PRESENTER BECAUSE
I BECAME THE
CARDINAL BULB
OF IMMORTAL
GUARDIANSHIP.

I HAVE
FALLEN IN LOVE
WITH A HUMAN
BEING.





CREAT, WE
WITH SOME
INTELLIGENCE.
ZURIEL, ARE
WE SUPPOSED TO
BELIEVE YOU'RE
WILLING TO SACRIFICE YOUR
IMMORTALITY FOR
SOME CHATTERING
MONKEY'S?



THAT
WOULD BE
CONSIDERED
A MISTAKE.



THIS HAS ONLY
HAPPENED ONCE
BEFORE. MOSTY FEARED
NOT. THE ANGEL IN
QUESTION NOW LIES,
WITHERED AND BLOOD-
WILLOWING IN THE
MIDST OF HIS OWN
MORTALITY.

HE LOST HIS
WISDOM, HIS STATUS,
EVEN HIS SPIRIT
DRAINING HIM
QUICKLY AFTER LOSING
THE VERY MORTAL HE
SAUGHT TO PROTECT.



IS THIS
HOW YOU WISH
TO END YOUR
PAIN?

THANK
GODDESS,
ZURIEL.



SHAYON COMES
ON HIS BRIGHTER
AT TWENTY-TWO
THAN HE DID IN
ETERNITY. WORDS
ALONE CANNOT
BEGIN TO
DESCRIBE HOW
MUCH I LOVE
THIS DEEL LORD
HERAPHON.

SURELY
YOU MUST
UNDERSTAND.



UNFORTUNATELY
NOT.

EVERYTHING WOULD
HAVE BEEN SIMPLE FROM
THIS POINT IF ASMODEL
DIDN'T KNOW I'D OVER-
HEARD HIS PLANS.

WHAT WOULD
NEXT WOULD NEVER
HAVE OCCURRED

FLAME T

THE PAR-DEI,
THE ARMY OF HEAVEN,
IS SPLIT INTO FOUR
ANGELIC HOSTS:
EAGLE, LION, BULL
AND MAN. THE BULL
LEGION ARE BY FAR
THE MOST MILITANT
AND ASMODEL IS
THE WORST OF THEM
ALL.

WHAT DOES
ANY OF THIS
HAVE TO DO
WITH ME?

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND

HE PLANS
TO EXPLORE
THE PRESENCE
SHANNON.

ASMODEL
HOPES TO
SUCCEED WHERE
LUCIFER
FAILED.

IS THIS
ASHMOUL
AFTER ME
TOO?

I'M SORRY,
SHANNON. THIS
MUST ALL SOUND
INSANE DROPPING
IN HERE OUT OF THE
BLUE LIKE THIS. IT'S
JUST THERE SO MUCH
I WANT TO SHARE
WITH YOU.



I HARDLY
KNOW WHERE
TO START.

UH, WHERE
IS ASHMOUL
NOW?

ASHMOUL JUST
CAME AFTER ME
WITH SOME OF HIS
BULL-ANGELS AND
TRIED TO KILL ME.
BRING ME BACK
THE BOOK SOONER
BECAUSE I KNEW
ABOUT THEIR
PLANS OF HIS.



FORTUNATELY
THE JUSTICE
LEAGUE
INTERVENED.



YOU KNOW THE
JUSTICE LEAGUE?

NICE PEOPLE
IMPRESSIVE
BASE THEY HAVE
UP THERE ON THE
MOON. THEY
ACTUALLY ASKED
ME IF I'D LIKE TO
GOIN ONCE I GAVE
YOU THE MESSAGE
I'VE COME TO BELIEVE.

TO TELL
YOU HOW MUCH
I LOVE
YOU.



WHAT
MESSAGE?

SUPERMAN WRESTLED
HIM TO A STALEMATE
WHILE THE OTHERS
DEVELOPED A SOLUTION
TO KNOCKING HIM
IF HE DEAD IF THEY
HADN'T HELPED ME....





HEAVEN'S ABOVE, HELL'S
BELOW AND EVERYTHING
WE COULD EVER WANT TO
UNDERSTAND ABOUT THE
UNIVERSE IS JUST THE
AIDS OF SYMMETRY

THAT'S ALL
YOU NEED
TO KNOW.

I HEARD ABOUT THE
JUSTICE LEAGUE.
LOVE ASHMOEL.

WHAT
DO YOU
PROMISE
WE DO
NOW?



BEHOLD YOU ARE
A KING OF HELL.
A TRADER IN SOULS
SINCE FLESH HAS
GIVEN A CONCEPT
YOU SHOULD KNOW
BETTER THAN TO
REMAIN A KING-
ANGEL OF HIS
KILLINGS

WE PROCEEDED
WITH OUR TWO-
FRONTED ASSAULT
ON THE SHORES
OF HEAVEN AS
PLANNED.





SUPPOSE SAUL TELLS THE PRESENCE TO OUR HOST?

A FORMER GUARDIAN ANGEL WARNING THE ORIGIN OF ALL THOUGHT THAT HIS THROAT MIGHT BE IN DANGER? I DON'T SEE HOW.



HE HAS FAITH IN THE POWER OF HIS GOD.

MISPLACED FAITH, OF COURSE.

CONSIDER THE MATTER CLOSED.



FORGIVE ME, LORD ASMODEUS, BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN OUR PLANS REACH PEAK AND OUR GODS COMBINED LEADERS BRIDE HEAVEN AND YOU SIT UPON THE GOLDEN THRONE?

WOULD YOU HAVE YOUR ANSWER? HOW GREAT ASMODEUS HE WAS WHEN HE WAS AND THE IT WAS ONCE HUMILIATED BY A LOWLY GUARDIAN ANGEL?



YOUR POSITION WOULD BE UNCHANGEABLE.

PERHAPS YOU HAVE A POINT.

OTHERS MIGHT CONSIDER IT AS A SIGN OF WEAKNESS IF SAUL TELLS THE PRESENCE TO OUR HOST?



SEND A SCOUT PARTY OF DEMONS TO LOCATE HIM. I WILL INSTRUCT MY ANGELS TO PREPARE A FLESH-BUT FOR MY RETURN TO THE MORTAL PLANE.

SEND STRIGAN FOR NOW.



AS YOU WISH, O GLORIOUS LORD ASMODEUS.

INDEED I HAVE ALREADY TAKEN THE LIBERTY.



THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE...



TO BE HONEST, YOU DID ALL THE HARD WORK. BRINGING HIM BACK TO THE LAND OF THE LIVING WAS HARD AFTER ALL THE CARE AND ATTENTION YOU GAVE HIM.

THEY'RE THE ONLY ONE WE APPRECIATE EVERYTHING, BUT THE CASE WAS DEATH, HIM DEAD...



HE WANTS TO TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF NOW.



EXACTLY. IF YOU'VE BEEN AROUND MY WHOLE LIFE, YOU MUST BE AWARE OF THE FACT THAT I'M ALREADY KIND OF SEEING SOMEONE AT THE MOMENT.

YOU MUST KNOW JERRY AND I HAVE BEEN POSITELY SERIOUS FOR A COUPLE OF MONTHS.



WELL... THAT SHELL... ON GO.



WHY NOT?

STEP AWAY FROM THE WINDOW





**TWO MONTHS OF YOUR
FREE HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE**

2. Explain the difference between a
strong and a weak acid.





SHUT UP, STRAID.

I'M READY FOR ANYTHING THEY THROW AT ME.

GOOD ANSWER. NOW GET OUT OF THIS PLACE BEFORE I LOSE MY TEMPER. YOUR VERY PRESENCE IN THE SHADOW OF A CHURCH MUST BE CONSIDERED A BLASPHEMY.

OF COURSE, I SHALL DEPART NOW. NOW, STRAID. BUT DON'T FORGET YOU AND YOUR COW SHALL BE KILLED BY SOME RABBIT. KNOCKING RABBIT WANTS IN BOOKS.

BLASPHEMY! THAT'S RIGHT! YOU'VE COME FROM SOME MUCH-LOVED ANGELS. WELL, HERE DO THEY GO! I'VE BEEN REMEMBERED BY US. GOOD. BE A GOOD STRAID.

COULD IT BE YOUR SHREDDING OF BULL BONES?

...and the tower is
falling again...

HELL BRANCH IN
KITCHEN AREA,
MARTIAN
HUNTER

STANDARD PROTOCOL:
COMPUTER: SEARCH TEAM READY
BILLOCK: AROUND BANNY AND
DOWNLOAD THREE-DIMENSIONAL
SCHEMATIC OF THE ENTIRE
AREA IMMEDIATELY

LET'S SEE
WHO WE'RE
DEALING WITH
HERE.

DEE TEE TEE TEE

AND
YOU
ARE?

ANGEL,
OF COURSE.

KING-
ANGEL OF
THE PRE-
DEL.

ARE YOU
HAVEN'T
FORGOTTEN
ALREADY.



IT'S CALLED A PUNCH-DRAT, YOU PATHETIC LITTLE CREATURE THE ONLY WAY I COULD RETURN AFTER WHAT YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS DID TO ME IN SAN FRANCISCO.

NO SUPERMAN NO BARD YOU NOW.



HAVING TROUBLE
BREATHING?
TASTE A BUBBLE.

I'M SURE THE
POSTERBOY SIGNAL
I CAN SEE WINKING
ON THE WATERTOWER
WILL SEND THE
OTHERS RUNNING TO
YOUR RESCUE. IN
FACT, I'M COUNTING
ON IT.

I WANT
YOU MOVING
OUT OF THE
WAY.

THIS IS
A PRIVATE
BUSINESS.

THIS IS
BETWEEN ME
AND ZARUEL
NOW.

TO BE
CONTINUED!

THE STORY SO FAR

Far beyond the mortal realms of the Earth lie dimensions and worlds and planes of existence little known by the common man. And while the world's mightiest superheroes — the Justice League of America — are possibly familiar with a fair number of native regions or alternate realities or tangent worlds, there is one Higher Realm from which even THEY never expected to hear: Heaven.

In JLA #4 and #7, readers met a lowly Guardian Angel named Zauriel, an angel who had renounced his immortality in order to participate actively in the life of a woman with whom he had fallen in love. Imagine THAT: a guardian angel falling in love. Whoever heard of such a thing?

Nobody, apparently. So in addition to falling in love, Zauriel fell from grace and was banished from Heaven by his boss, the leader of the angels: Biggie Host. And as if THAT wasn't tough enough, on his way out Zauriel stumbled upon a terrible, unthinkable conspiracy among the angels of the Bull Host which went all the way to the top of their order — to the King Angel of the Bull Host himself, Lord Asmode! And Asmode's despicable plan was to usurp the Presence, the very Lord of Lords Himself, to seize the Throne of Heaven, and proclaiming himself God.

So, at any rate, Zauriel gets expelled from Heaven, stumbles on this dreadful conspiracy, and before he can even get in

touch with the gal he's fallen in love with, Asmode! sends out a squad of Killer Angels to finish Zauriel off.

Enter the Justice League of America, who don't like to see nice guys get finished off by super-powerful interdimensional bad guys, even if they ARE from Heaven. There's a gigantic fight before we learn that Asmode! is secretly in league with Necron, Lord of Lies, and one of the major players in Hell these days, and just in the nick of time, Superman, Wonder Woman, the Martian Manhunter, Green Lantern, the Flash, Aquaman and Zauriel show the day. (The Batmen didn't actually appear in the story, but we're pretty sure he pulled his weight off-camera somewhere.)

Which left Zauriel free to pursue his dream of meeting his one true love and doing all he could do to help her. Even an offer of JLA membership by Superman couldn't sway him, and he was last seen ringing her doorbell at the end of JLA #7. Which is where we find him at the start of this issue of JLA: PARADISE LOST #1.

Which leaves only one question unanswered: If Zauriel knows about Asmode!'s unspeakable plan to take control of Heaven, why hasn't he told anyone about it? With such terrific forces as the Bull Host and the wretched legions of Necron allied towards a common goal, wouldn't you think that Zauriel would want to seed up a flare, for God's sake?

The answer is: withal.



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